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KGB Defector Identifies U.S. Leaks, Sources Say

CIA Ex-Employes Are Implicated

By Robert Parry
Associated Press

A senior KGB officer who defected to the West has told U.S. officials questioning him that one or more former Central Intelligence Agency employes provided information to the Soviet intelligence agency, U.S. government sources said yesterday.

A congressional source said the number of former CIA employes implicated as Soviet agents was "more than one and less than six .... Several." He added that at least one served in a position to pose a serious threat to American interests.

But a Justice Department source, familiar with the interrogation of the defector, Vitaly Yurchenko (sometimes spelled Dzhurtchenko), said, "To say several would be misleading." Both sources insisted on anonymity.

[Last night, the Los Angeles Times, quoting sources, said Yurchenko disclosed that the Soviets were making heavy use of a potentially hazardous "spy dust" to track the movement of Americans in Moscow. His warning, which came amid indications that the Soviets were using the chemical, persuaded U.S. officials to go public with their accusation, the sources said.

[The newspaper also quoted an intelligence source as denying Hill reports that Yurchenko had implicated former CIA employes.]

Yurchenko, who served as first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 1975 to 1980, oversaw KGB intelligence operations in the United States, the congressional source said. The source said it appears that some of the former CIA employes quit the agency recently out of fear of exposure and fled to "places where they can be in contact with Russia."

Meanwhile, the Justice Department and the CIA denied a New York Times report yesterday that Yurchenko had identified current CIA employes as KGB agents.

Asked if the CIA would extend its denial to cover former CIA employes, CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson refused to go that far and said the earlier statement would stand as is. That denial said: "The New York Times allegation ... that a Soviet defector 'identified several employes of the Central Intelligence Agency as Soviet agents' is untrue."

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